

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-10 (Previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer).

11. (Currently Amended) A portable device comprising:
- an imaging assembly including a two-dimensional solid state image sensor and optics focusing an image onto said image sensor;
 - a trigger;
 - a portable housing encapsulating said solid state image sensor;
 - a control circuit configured to operate in a mode in which said control circuit stores an image in response to a user-actuation of said trigger;
- wherein said control circuit is further configured to operate in a mode in which said control circuit sends said image to ~~a separately housed~~ an external spaced apart device together with a set of executable instructions executable by said spaced apart device, said executable instructions instructing said ~~separately housed~~ external spaced apart device to (a) decode a bar code symbol represented in said image to generate a decoded-out message; and (b) transmit back to said portable device said decoded-out message; and
- wherein said control circuit is further configured to receive from said ~~separately housed~~ external spaced apart device said decoded-out message decoded from said image sent by said control circuit to said ~~separately housed~~ external spaced apart device.

12. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 11, wherein said portable device further includes an illumination assembly comprising at least one LED.

13. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 11, wherein said portable device further includes an illumination assembly comprising at least one white LED.

14. (Currently Amended) The portable device of claim 11, wherein said portable device is configured so that said executable instructions sent by said portable device are sent via the Internet to a ~~separately housed~~ an external spaced apart device provided by ~~[[a]]~~ remote processor assembly.

15. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 11, wherein said portable housing is in the form factor of a wireless portable telephone.

16. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 11, wherein said portable device is devoid of a symbol decoding functionality.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a portable device having a two-dimensional solid state image sensor, a memory, and being configured to decode a bar code in accordance with a decoding program, said hand held portable device being in communication with a ~~separately housed~~ an external spaced apart device, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) storing into said memory an image file in a file format suitable for storing image files, said image file having an open byte memory location;
- (b) decoding a bar code represented in an image utilizing said decoding program to produce decoded-out message data;
- (c) writing said decoded-out message data yielded by execution of decoding step (b) into said image file open byte memory location referred to in step (a); and
- (d) transmitting said image file including said decoded-out message data to said ~~separately housed~~ external spaced apart device so that both of image data of said image file referred to in step (a) and said decoded out message data referred to in step (b) are transferred to said ~~separately housed~~ external spaced apart device when said image file is transmitted from said portable device to said ~~separately housed~~ external spaced apart device.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said image file format referred to in step (a) is selected from the group consisting of .BMP, .TIFF and .PDF.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of converting said decoded-out message referred to in step (b) into an image representation of said decoded-out message, and stitching said image representation of said decoded-out message into said image file referred to in step (a).

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said image file referred to in step (a) and said image referred to in step (b) represent a common area of a target.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said transmitting step (d) includes the step of wirelessly transmitting said image file.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a portable device having a two-dimensional solid state image sensor, a memory, and being configured to decode a bar code in accordance with a decoding program, said portable device being in communication with a ~~separately housed~~ an external spaced apart device, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) storing into said memory an image file in a file format suitable for storing image files;
- (b) decoding a bar code represented in an image utilizing said decoding program to produce decoded-out message data;
- (c) converting said decoded-out message data into an image representation of said decoded-out message data;
- (d) stitching said image representation of said decoded out message data referred to in step (c) into said image file referred to in step (a); and
- (e) transmitting said image file to said ~~separately housed~~ external spaced apart device so that both of original image data of said image file referred to in step (a) and

said stitched-in image data corresponding to said decoded-out message referred to in step (d) are transferred to said ~~separately-housed~~ external spaced apart device when said image file is transmitted from said portable device to said ~~separately-housed~~ external spaced apart device.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said image file format referred to in step (a) is selected from the group consisting of .BMP, .TIFF and .PDF.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said image file format suitable for storing image files is one that is dedicated for storing image files.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said image file referred to in step (a) and said image referred to in step (b) represent a common area of a target.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said transmitting step (e) includes the step of wirelessly transmitting said image file.

Claims 27-29 (Previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer).

30. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a portable device having image capture and symbol decoding functionality to create a record of information respecting a package for delivery having affixed thereto a first decodable symbol, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) actuating an image capture function of said device a first time to capture a first image representation corresponding to a first view of said package;
- (b) actuating an image capture function of said device a second time to capture a second image representation corresponding to a second view of said package;
- (c) associating said first image representation with a decoded-out message produced by decoding of said first decodable symbol affixed to said package; and

- (d) associating said second image representation with said decoded-out message produced by decoding of said first decodable symbol affixed to said package;
- (e) whereby a database is created for image representations related to said package, said database being indexed by said decoded-out message, so that a plurality of image representations corresponding to said package, are retrieved by searching for said decoded-out message in said database.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said method includes the steps of decoding said first decodable symbol a first time to associate said first image representation with said decoded-out message, and decoding said decodable symbol a second time to associate said second image representation with said decoded-out message.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising the steps of actuating said image capture function a third time to capture a third image representation corresponding to a transportation vehicle carrying said package for delivery, and associating said third image representation with said decoded-out message produced by decoding of said first decodable symbol.

33. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 11, further comprising a display.

34. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 11, further comprising a keyboard and a display.

35. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 11, wherein said portable housing is in the form factor of a personal data assistant (PDA).

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said storing step (a) includes the step of storing a .BMP file.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said storing step (a) includes the step of storing a .TIFF file.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said storing step (a) includes the step of storing a .PDF file.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said writing step (c) includes the step of writing said decoded-out message data into a header of said image file.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said writing step (c) includes the step of writing said decoded-out message data into a tail of said image file.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said storing step (a) includes the step of storing a .BMP file.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said storing step (a) includes the step of storing a .TIFF file.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said storing step (a) includes the step of storing a .PDF file.

44. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said image file stored in said storing step represents an article, and wherein said bar code decoded in said decoding step is disposed on said article.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said article is a package.

47. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said article is a package that is transported from a first location miles apart from a second location.

48. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said image file stored in said storing step represents a part of a vehicle, and wherein said bar code decoded is in said decoding step disposed on a package which was loaded onto said vehicle.

49. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said storing step is carried out subsequent to said decoding step.

50. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said image file comprises a byte of data describing compression information.

51. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said external spaced apart device is a remote processor assembly.

52. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said external spaced apart device is a remote processor assembly incorporating a web page.

53. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said image file stored in said storing step represents an article and wherein said bar code decoded in said decoding step is disposed on said article.